

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5070

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000

EXPORT OF RICE

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rice exports during 1999-2000 have shown a significant decline in terms of volume as compared to 1998-99;
- (b) if so, whether the Indian rice has lost its competitive edge in the international market;
- (c) if so, the major causes for Indian rice losing traditional export markets;
- (d) whether any efforts have been made to rectify the problem; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

- (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of basmati and non-basmati rice exported during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under:-

Quantity : lakh metric tonnes Value : in Rs.crores

Year	Basmati Rice	Non-basmati rice
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	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1998-99	5.98	1876.91	43.66	4403.85
1999-2000 (Provisional)	6.06	1735.94	12.17	1369.43

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

The exports of rice depend upon International demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences, and varieties traded. Low international demand and better crop production in rice consuming countries has led to the shrinking of Indian rice exports during 1999-2000.

- (d) & (e) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of rice include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.